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CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany REPORT**TOPIC: Ball Exercise of the 2nd Mass Div in the Cottbus-Justerbog-Wittenberg Area and Transfer of the 6th Gde Tank Div in the Wittenberger Area.**EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1DATE OF CONTENT 25X1DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 18 October 1955

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED Information

1. On 29 September 1955, 6 converted boxcars, 4 boxcars and 35 flatcars, went from Altengrabow to Cottbus. 1

2. At about 2200 on 1 October, 10 T-34 or T-54 tanks and 11 JS-2 or JS-3 tanks were entrained at the Cottbus railroad station. The loading was still under way at 2300.

3. Between 20 September and 1 October, the Sachsendorf Kaserne (3082) in Cottbus was occupied to capacity by 1,800 to 2,000 soldiers wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets including a few with artillery insignia, red-bordered black epaulets with tank and motor transport insignia, and blue-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia. Between 250 and 300 vehicles were parked in the open and under lean-to roofs. The sheds, which were presumably occupied by tanks and guns, could not be observed. At about 1300 on 1 October, 10 T-34/85 tanks were seen in front of an open shed and 16 field kitchens in operation were seen in the barracks yard. The unit appeared to be ready for departure.

4. On 30 September, the Hermann Loens Kaserne (3083) in Cottbus was occupied by approximately 1,500 to 1,800 soldiers who wore black-bordered crimson and red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. The installation was occupied by a division headquarters. A brigadier general in sedan was seen in the installation. Between 200 and 250 vehicles were seen in sheds and in the open. The occupation of the sheds could not be observed.

On 19 September, it was learned that the cost for the reconditioning in 1955 of the Sachsendorf Kaserne, the Hermann Loens Kaserne, the Alvensleben Kaserne (3084) and the Dissenchen Kaserne (3081) in Cottbus amounted to 1.4 million eastmarks.

5. Between 0830 and 1500 on 4 October, numerous columns passed through Neuohof in the Justerbog area. They came from the direction of Heidehof and proceeded northward. The columns included some 100

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tanks of various types, approximately 58 x 122-mm field howitzers, some 45 x 85-mm AA guns, some 12 x 37-mm AA guns, approximately 24 x 57-mm and 85-mm AT guns, approximately 16 x 160-mm mortars, about 220 armored personnel carriers, some 400 to 500 trucks [redacted] and at least 20 field kitchens. At about 1030, an engineer column joined these columns on Highway No 101. The engineer column, which came from the direction of Luckenwalde, included 8 three-axle amphibious vehicles, 4 wooden boats, approximately 6 meters long, about 12 trucks with pontoons and about 15 trucks with beams and boards.

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6. On 6 and 7 October, the following shipments were loaded at the Pratau railroad station:

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6 October. At 1615, some 35 trucks, 5 armored personnel carriers, 2 x 37-mm AA guns, 300 soldiers and engineer equipment. The shipment left via Wittenberg-Jessen.

At 1630, approximately 15 T 34/35 and T-54 tanks, 17 trucks, 2 van-like trucks, 1 tank hull, 2 field kitchens, 20 boxcars. [redacted]

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7 October. At 0920, 50 to 60 trucks, most of them loaded with engineer equipment, 4 tank hulls, beams and logs. [redacted]

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At 1100, 6 JSU-152 guns, 15 to 20 trucks, 6 to 8 armored personnel carriers, 1 jeep, field kitchens and approximately 150 soldiers. [redacted]

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The units came from the Dabrun area, 5 kilometers southeast of Wittenberg. All shipments left toward Jessen via Wittenberg.

7. On 6 and 7 October, the following shipments were loaded at the Wittenberg railroad station:

6 October. At 1700, 12 rocket launchers and 20 to 25 trucks [redacted]

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7 October. At 0800, some 20 T-34/35 tanks, 5 trucks [redacted] 1 radio truck, 1 repair shop truck and 1 to 2 field kitchens.

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At 0900, 12 to 14 SP guns, [redacted] some 15 trucks, 2 x 37-mm AA guns, 4 armored personnel carriers, 2 field kitchens, 2 radio trucks and approximately 200 troops. [redacted]

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At noon, approximately 20 T-34/35 tanks [redacted] approximately 25 trucks and 2 field kitchens, [redacted]

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The units came from the Mahna area, some 10 kilometers northeast of Wittenberg. All shipments left toward Jessen. [redacted]

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1. [] Comment. Possibly return of an artillery (?) unit of the 9th Mecz Div from the Altengrabow training grounds. 25X1
2. [] Comment. According to observations at the posts and shipments the loading for fall exercises of the elements of the 9th Mecz Div stationed in Cottbus presumably started on 1 October. See [] 25X1
Comment 3. The installations of the Cottbus post were presumably reconditioned during the summer months of 1955. 25X1
3. [] Comment. The units, which were observed at the Jueterbog training grounds in the Luckenwalde-Mehlsdorf area on 4 October, were presumably loaded in Pratau (S Wittenberg) on 6 and 7 October and, one shipment, at Wittenberg at 1700 on 6 October. The motor vehicle [] observed during these loadings [] 25X1
believed to belong to the 9th Mecz Div. This tends to indicate that the fall exercise of the 9th Mecz Div, which started about 2 October, developed similarly to that of the 7th Gds Tank Div which lasted from 21/22 to 25/26 September. [] 25X1
[] The shipments presumably went to Cottbus via Jessen-Falkenberg. [] 25X1
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4. [] Comment. Except for one shipment, (see [] Comment 3) the motor vehicle [] observed during the loadings in Wittenberg on 7 October belonged to the 6th Gds Tank Div and, a few, to army troops of the Third Gds Mecz Army. It is therefore believed that the 6th Gds Tank Div and, possibly, army troops of the Third Gds Mecz Army transferred by rail to the Weisswasser area via Jessen-Falkenberg, presumably after 6 October. [] 25X1
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